

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 14, for purposes of conducting a subcommittee hearing which is scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on titles IX and X of S. 1693, the Vision 2020 National Parks Restoration Act; and S. 1614, a bill to require a permit for the making of motion picture, television program, or other form of commercial visual depiction in a unit of the National Park System or National Wildlife Refuge System.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

NUCLEAR TESTS CONDUCTED BY INDIA ON MONDAY, MAY 11, AND WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 1998

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I am deeply concerned that India conducted three underground nuclear tests in the western desert state of Rajasthan on Monday, May 11, and two additional tests at the same site on Wednesday, May 13. These tests were conducted without any advance warning to the rest of the world and are a dangerous precedent for future testing by other nations. No nation should think that it can conduct secret nuclear tests and not be held accountable for its actions. Furthermore, these tests run counter to an international campaign to pass the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), of which I fully support, and are both irresponsible and unacceptable. The United States and the international community must speak out against this action and act swiftly and justly.

India, which has not signed the 1970 nonproliferation treaty, gave no advance warning about the nuclear tests on Monday and Wednesday. Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee said that the explosions in the desert, 330 miles southwest of New Delhi, did not result in the release of radiation into the atmosphere. However, this is simply untrue. Nuclear explosions, even when they are conducted underground, release deadly radioactive materials into the atmosphere and water table, posing health risks for generations to come. Treating the human race and the environment with such complete disrespect is unacceptable and will not go unnoticed.

While many of India's leaders have applauded these tests, the people of India are hurt the most. India is a country of extreme poverty and all Indians will be harmed by this act. On one hand, international sanctions are imminent which will pose further eco-

nomical hardship on the poorest of the poor. On the other, the radiation from these nuclear blasts has severe health impacts on all Indians including those closest to New Delhi. It was irresponsible for the leaders of India to sacrifice the economic and physical well-being of its people for a display of military might.

Moreover, countries that break international law by detonating nuclear devices are subject to denial of U.S. credits and credit guarantees.

Federal law also requires U.S. opposition to loan requests to international lending institutions and bars loans from any U.S. bank to the Indian government except those that provide food or other agricultural commodities. I will bring the issue of international sanctions and international lending up with my colleagues on the Senate Banking Committee, which oversees World Bank issues, to ensure that appropriate actions are taken with regard to countries who disregard international law and conduct nuclear tests.

India, one of several nations widely suspected of nuclear capability which has not joined the 1970 CTBT treaty, now observed by 185 countries, should be pressured to sign the treaty immediately. India's leaders acted with disregard and India must be shown that its actions are unacceptable. The United States will be forced to impose sanctions on India, and I would urge swift action on this front. Nevertheless, this irresponsible act by India should not be an impetus to step up the arms race by Pakistan. Instead, Pakistan should exercise restraint and caution while the international community imposes sanctions. In the long-term, Pakistan will benefit most by responding to this action, not with military buildup, but with a higher level of dignity and morality.

Mohandas Gandhi said, We must support friends even in their mistakes, however, it must be the friend and not the mistake we are supporting." India's decision to conduct nuclear tests was a mistake that was both irresponsible and unacceptable. Although I wish no ill on the people of India, the leaders of the country must accept responsibility for this mistake and the consequences that, no doubt, will follow.●

ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the Arthritis Foundation on its 50th anniversary. Since its inception in 1948, the Arthritis Foundation is stronger than ever and is forging ahead with an increased commitment to providing help and hope for those who suffer from the more than one hundred forms of arthritis and related conditions, including osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, fibromyalgia and juvenile arthritis.

Arthritis, in its various forms, is a major national health problem, affect-

ing more than 40 million people in the United States. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention predict that by the year 2020, arthritis prevalence will increase to 59.4 million Americans—one out of every five people, including 285,000 children.

If that is not enough, the economic impact of arthritis is significant. I have been informed that arthritis results in 39 million physician visits a year and more than half a million hospitalizations annually. Medical costs and lost productivity due to arthritis are estimated at almost \$65 billion per year—approximately 1.1 percent of the gross national product.

Through it all, the Arthritis Foundation has increased public awareness and has help provide guidance for combating arthritis. The Arthritis Foundation, an Atlanta based nonprofit organization, supports research to find the cure for the prevention of arthritis and seeks to improve the quality of life for those affected by this disease. Further, the Arthritis Foundation encourages people with arthritis to seek early diagnosis and treatment, and provides programs to facilitate self-management.

The Arthritis Foundation's sponsorship of research for 50 years has resulted in major treatment advances for most types of arthritis and related conditions. The Foundation currently provides \$16 million annually in grants to more than 300 researchers to help find cures, promote prevention and provide better treatments. Since its inception, the Foundation has spent more than \$200 million on research while supporting more than 1,700 scientists and physicians.

The organization has informed me that they are moving toward a new era of public health activity that includes collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to develop the National Arthritis Action Plan. They are seeking support for the inclusion of arthritis in Healthy People 2010, the nation's strategic planning guide for health promotion and disease prevention.

The National Arthritis Action Plan will focus on such elements as defining the nature, extent and distribution of the arthritis burden; identifying modifiable risk factors; developing creative and effective public health programs and policies to reduce this burden; and implementing and coordinating these programs and policies through partnership with government, voluntary, professional, private and academic institutions and organizations.

The Arthritis Foundation also provides a large number of nationwide community-based services to make life easier and less painful. These services include self-help courses, water and land-based exercise classes, support groups, instructional videotapes, educational brochures and booklets, and continuing education courses and publications for health professionals.

In the past 50 years, the Arthritis Foundation has funded research, increased public awareness and provided needed education and services. These major contributions have placed the goal of curing and managing the impact of some forms of arthritis within a realistic reach. I congratulate the Foundation on this golden achievement and wish it continued success in the future.●

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF DR. H. JAMES MAHAN

● Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, it is my pleasure today to take a few minutes to honor the career of a champion of public education, Dr. H. James Mahan, as he retires from the position of Superintendent of Homewood School District Number 153 in Homewood, Illinois.

For 15 years, Dr. Mahan has led Homewood School District #153 down a path of educational excellence and innovation. In 1984, the district had 1,450 students and 90 professional staff members. Today, there are 2,240 students and 180 professional staffers. During this period of expansion, Dr. Mahan worked to ensure that the quality of education in his school district improved as well.

Under his stewardship, district schools have twice been named Blue Ribbon Winners by the United States Department of Education. This success is in large part due to the sound educational principles that have been the basis of Dr. Mahan's leadership. He has developed meaningful physical improvement plans, initiated the use of the Internet and other technology as classroom tools, and he has encouraged local businesses and organizations to provide his district's students with hands-on learning experiences through internships and mentoring programs. Furthermore, Dr. Mahan has instilled in his schools the principles of fiscal prudence, good discipline and teacher development.

Dr. Mahan's commitment to public education and to the students of Homewood School District #153 are commendable and serve as a model for others to follow. I congratulate Dr. Mahan on this milestone of his career, and wish him good luck and Godspeed in all of his future endeavors.●

NATIONAL SPACE SYMPOSIUM

● Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I had the pleasure of participating in the 14th National Space Symposium hosted last month by the United States Space Foundation. The annual symposium was designed to display and discuss current trends in the space community, and the 1998 theme reflected what has become very significant to the development of the United States space industry: "The Global Relevance for Space: Civil, Commercial and Military". As the Foundation's President, Bill Knudsen, said in his remarks,

"Space is increasingly global in all aspects. The strong interrelationship between government, private industry and military space activities has created a completely new environment."

The location of this symposium highlights the significant position of my state of Colorado in the global space business. All aspects of space thrive in Colorado; we have an extensive and growing industry and a significant military presence.

The symposium addressed several issues and opportunities with a broad international flavor, and with a focus on commercial and market concerns.

Demonstrating the interrelated nature of space activity, each of the symposium's eleven professional panels had at least one representative from the civil sector, one representing the commercial perspective and one from the national security perspective. This integrated approach produced a spirited dialog on critical space issues.

The list of participants was impressive, a few especially captured my attention. NASA Administrator Dan Goldin detailed accomplishments of the agency, announced cooperative efforts with the Air Force and substantiated the need for the International Space Station, rejecting suggestions that the Russians should be dropped from the program. Mr. Goldin also spoke to what I believe may be NASA's greatest accomplishment: increasing their productivity while reducing their budget. The NASA budget has decreased 30% since 1993, and in that same time 10 new programs and numerous partnerships have been created. In the coming era of public and private partnership in space exploration and development, NASA has established a high standard of efficiency and achievement.

The capstone panel, led by Mr. Goldin, also featured General Howell Estes, Commander in Chief of NORAD and US Space Command. General Estes emphasized the marketplace as the driving force, while recognizing the necessity of a proper partnership between the private sector and government.

Robert Mallett, the Deputy Secretary of Commerce, stressed the need to recognize commercial space as the driver of a higher growth job machine in industry that will deliver prosperity and security for coming generations of Americans.

Our colleague in the House, Representative Curt Weldon, addressed national security, space and arms control concerns as he spoke passionately from his experience of working with the Russians.

I spoke about the important mission of our military to secure the use of space, and my perspective as a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee on space implications for national security. I believe that the private and public sector must work together to ensure that the United States is the first and best in space. I support legislation in Congress to encourage com-

mercialization of space, and in particular have been supportive of the efforts of our Colorado companies that plan to operate remote-sensing satellites that will offer unique high-resolution satellite photos.

In addition to the panels, more than sixty exhibitors displayed the latest in space technology at this international conference. The Foundation honored exceptional achievement in space activities, recognizing NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory for their public outreach efforts associated with last summer's remarkable Pathfinder Mission, and the career of space leadership of General Thomas S. Moorman, Jr. USAF (ret.), the former vice chief of staff of the Air Force.

General Estes and others from the Space Command laid out the future of military space with the unveiling at the symposium of their Long Range Plan. Two technologies were inducted into the Space Technology Hall of Fame, the Global Positioning System and Temper Foam, a NASA Ames Research Center technology used in medical and recreational applications. The Hall of Fame marketed its 10th anniversary of honoring technologies originally developed for the space program and later adapted to benefit others here on Earth.

The symposium's sponsor, the United States Foundation, is a national nonprofit organization with headquarters in Colorado Springs. The Foundation's mission it to aggressively advance civil, commercial and national security space endeavors for a brighter future and to provide and support educational excellence through the excitement of space. The Foundation should be commended for this symposium and for their other important projects, such as the Mission HOME program, a public awareness campaign for the space community, and Space Discovery graduate courses and teacher education opportunities.

This annual event has grown considerably in the past few years, and I expect it to continue growing in scope and significance. I am already looking forward to next April and the 15th Annual National Space Symposium.●

SECURITIES LITIGATION UNIFORM STANDARDS ACT OF 1998— AMENDMENT NO. 2397

● Mr. DODD. Is it the intention of the sponsor of amendment No. 2397 to the Securities Litigation Uniform Standards Act that it should apply solely to States, their political subdivisions, and their pension plans?

Mr. SARBANES. Yes.

Mr. DODD. And is it the Senator's intention that the amendment not be used by plaintiff's lawyers to piggyback class action suits onto suits brought by the entities mentioned in the amendment?

Mr. SARBANES. That is correct.●